Madras High Court judgement regarding levy of income-tax on DA and relief grants to Central, State and private sector employees

2758. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Madras High Court delivered a judgment some time back to the effect that dearness allowance and relief granted by the Central and State Governments and also private employers to their employees from time to time shall not be included in the total income of the party for levy of income-tax and the Central Government have not contested the judgment in the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, whether an anomalous situation leading to unintended discrimination between the income-tax payers in Tamil Nadu and those in rest of India has developed as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, what steps his Ministry has taken to correct the anomalous situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) No, Sir, Commissioner of Income-tax, Madras has informed that there is no such Madras High Court Judgment.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Commemoration of African National Congress

2759. SHRI M. A. BABY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government proposed to commorate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the African National Congress.

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b) Government are considering the action to be taken in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the African National Congress.

Identification of bonded labourers

2760. SHRI KALPNATH RAI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bonded labourers identified during the last three years, State-wise ;

(b) the steps taken to free and rehabilitate them; and

(c) the number of the above still remain to be rehabilitated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, responsibility for identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers lies with the concerned State Government. Sate Governments have been advised from time to time to take action to identify bonded labour and to ensure timely rehabilitation of the identified and released bonded labour. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the rehabilitation of bonded labour has been sanctioned under which rehabilitation grant of Rs. 6,250/- is given to each bonded labourer. Annual targets are set for rehabilitation and the progress achieved by the States is monitored every month.

The information relating to identification and release of bonded labourers during the last three years as also the number of bonded labourers remaining to be rehabilitated (State-wise) is given in the statement laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Number of bonded labourers identified and released during			Number of bonded labourers remaining to be rehabilitated as on 30-9-86
		1983	1984	1985	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	—	445	2,400	4,009
2	Bihar	535	1,332	1,305	1,436